

GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER

FOR THE YEAR 1897,

BY

HERBERT LUCAS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL FEBRUARY 14TH, 1898.

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1898.

To the
Godmanchester Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Report as to the Sanitary condition of your Borough during the year 1897.

Births and Deaths.

The births of 65 children have been registered during the year, 38 males and 27 females, an average of 31·0 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 34 persons have been registered, making an average of 16·7 per 1000 persons living. To these the death of 3 inhabitants of the Borough occurring in the Huntingdon Union Workhouse being added, brings the total to 37, or an average 18·1 per 1000.

Four deaths occurred in persons over 70 years of age, 3 over 80, and 1 at 90 years.

Ten deaths occurred in children under 1 year of age, making an average infantile mortality of 153·8 per 1000, of these 3 deaths occurred from Bronchitis, 2 from Diarrhœa, and the remainder from debility from birth.

Prevalence of Zymotic Disease.

Nine cases of Zymotic disease have been notified during the year. Two cases of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Diphtheria, 2 of Enteric Fever, and 1 of Erysipelas.

Scarlet Fever.

Of the 2 cases notified both occurred in the same house; the first case on October 4th, and the second on October 21st. The first case was, no doubt, exposed to some external source of infec-

tion, as Scarlet Fever has been cropping up from time to time in the surrounding districts. All means practicable in a small house were employed to prevent the spread of the disease, but in spite of all precautions the second case occurred. The house has been since disinfected under the supervision of your Surveyor.

Diphtheria.

Four cases of diphtheria occurred during the year. In all these cases Insanitary surroundings existed in the shape of defective drains, dampness from standing water round the gully traps, and in one case the well-water was polluted.

All these conditions were remedied as far as possible under the supervision of your Surveyor.

Enteric Fever.

Two case of Enteric Fever were notified ; both cases occurred in children.

In the first case the well water was analysed and found to be polluted with sewage matter. The well was cleansed and put into a good condition.

In the second case the well water was analysed and found to be of good quality, but the Sanitary surroundings were in a very unsatisfactory condition. These have now been put into a thoroughly satisfactory condition.

Erysipelas.

One case of Erysipelas occurred in a man, who received an injury to his eye, and underwent a surgical operation, and subsequently took a chill. The Sanitary conditions surrounding his dwelling-house were in a good condition. This case is tabulated under injuries in table A.

Diseases of Respiratory Organs.

Six cases of death from Bronchitis occurred, all these cases were in children with one exception, a case in a man 78 years of age. The average from death from these causes was 2·8 per 1000.

Phthisis.

No fatal case from Phthisis occurred during the year.

Cancer.

One case of Cancer proved fatal during the year.

Measles.

There was an outbreak of Measles during February. I reported the same to the Local Government Board and advised the Authorities to close the Girls and Infants Schools—this was done. There were no fatal cases.

Diarrhœa.

Two fatal cases of Diarrhœa occurred, both cases in children 5 months of age.

Small-Pox and Vaccination.

No cases of Small Pox have occurred in the Borough for some years.

Vaccination is efficiently performed and there seems no unwillingness on the part of Parents to have their children Vaccinated—I regret to say that re-Vaccination is utterly neglected and if a case of Small Pox were imported into the district there would be a serious probability of an extensive outbreak.

Means of Preventing Infectious Disease.

We have no means of preventing the spread of Infectious Disease. The district is too poor to provide an Isolation Hospital and our only hope is in a combination with the Huntingdon Rural District Council.

We have no disinfecting apparatus and disinfection is carried out as well as it can be under the circumstances, under the direction of the Surveyor. Disinfectants are supplied free of charge when required.

Water.

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley. The pollution of wells has materially decreased since the adoption of the ash pail closet system in the district and the removal of privy vaults and deep ashpits.

In July last owing to the continued drought I caused notices to be circulated throughout the district urging persons to well boil their drinking water before use.

Four samples of water were sent for analysis during the year, 3 of these were polluted. The wells were all cleansed and attended to under the direction of your Surveyor.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The sewers on the whole are in a fairly good condition, and are well flushed with water from the river. I am glad to see you are now devoting your attention to the Ventilation of the Sewers; a course I have long advocated.

The sewers discharge into two brooks, which coalesce at a distance of two or three hundred yards, and form one stream. A coke filter is provided at the out-let of the upper sewer, but there is no means of dealing with solid matter at the lower one. The brook runs for nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles before discharging into the Hemingford Head of the river, owing to the pail system being so very general, very little foecal matter passes through the sewers. I should imagine the amount of sewage after passing such a distance and exposed to sunlight and air, and the action of the weeds can cause very little contamination when it reaches the river.

Removal of Refuse.

This is well carried out. Your Authority possessing your own horses, carts and men. All the refuse is carted on to a field a very considerable distance from the Borough proper, and far from any highway, the field being so situated that there is no chance of any water supply being affected.

Pollution of Streams & Water Courses.

All the streams and water courses in this neighbourhood are more or less liable to pollution, as concerns this district.—I have mentioned the matter in the paragraph relating to sewerage, and sewage disposal.

Premises Regulated by the Sanitary Authority.

Factories and Workshops.—The only factories in the district are a flour mill, and a jute bag manufactory recently started. These, as far as I know, are in a Sanitary condition, but are not inspected.

Schools.—The schools are regularly inspected.

Slaughter Houses.—Regularly inspected, and their condition much improved in consequence.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops are not inspected unless there is some special reason for doing so. As a rule they are kept by cleanly persons, and are in a good condition. The cattle in this district have large tracts of common and meadow land to graze over, and are in a generally healthy condition.

Food Adulteration.

One sample of milk was sent for analysis during the year, and was found of good quality.

House Sanitation.

Your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances keeps a watchful eye, and as he resides in the district is constantly on the look out for insanitary conditions surrounding the houses.

Several old houses have been pulled down and their places taken up with new ones. Old fashioned traps to the drains have been done away with and earthenware gully traps put in their place. This is being gradually and generally carried out.

The paving and gravelling of yards generally might be much improved, their bad condition was very evident as my annual inspection was made in showery weather.

Bye-laws.

There are no Bye-laws, but several Resolutions of the Council relating to the construction of new dwelling-houses and other matters are in force.

Notification of Diseases Act was introduced in 1890.

Mortuary.

A public Mortuary has been provided.

General Sanitation.

I inspected the District systematically with your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances Mr. Mayfield, in December last, and found things generally in an improving condition.

I have also made several special inspections from time to time as circumstances have arisen. I find Mr. Mayfield a very vigilant officer and have appended a tabulated report of his work during the year.

I enclose table A of deaths during the year 1897, and B of Population, Births, and new cases of Infectious Diseases.

I have the honour to remain Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year, 1897.—

Number of houses and premises inspected ..	...	...	...	347
Number of re-inspections	...	...	...	120
Orders issued for sanitary amendments of houses and premises,				
			First Notices...	120
			Final Notices ..	5
Houses disinfected after illness ...	...	...	...	1
Houses, the drainage of which has been improved ...	...	...	...	120
New earth closets provided	...	...	...	18
Privy vaults emptied and filled in	...	...	...	14
Deep ashpits done away with	...	...	...	20

Public Sewers:— $\frac{3}{4}$ mile cleansed, 30 defective catchpits have been removed and replaced with glazed stoneware catchpits.

K, 3.
(A) **TABLE OF DEATHS** during the Year 1897, in the *Goldmanchester Urban District*, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. <i>(Columns for Populations & Births are in Table B.)</i>	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.									
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Under 5 5 upwds.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.	
GODMANCHESTER	34	10	7	2	2	13	Under 5 5 upwds.	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	7 13 17	
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of Mortality.																
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.						3	Under 5 5 upwds.				2			1	3	

K² 11. **TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,**
(B) *coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Godmanchester*
Urban District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged 5 under or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.				
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.
GODMANCHESTER	2095	2095	65	Under 5	1	4	2		
			
				5 upwds.	1			2	1

State here whether " Notification of Infectious Disease " is compulsory in the District,—Yes. Since when? 1890.

Area and Population of the District or Division
to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres	-	-	-	4659
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Population (last census)	-	-	2095
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Estimated to middle of 1897 - 2095

Death Rates.	{	General - 16.7	{	per 1000 Population, esti- mated to middle of 1897.
		Infant (un- der 1 year of age) - 153.8		{	per 1000 Births Registered.

